(c) if so, the steps taken to augment water supply in the said area ; and

(d) the measures contemplated for filling the overhead water tanks and to ensure equal distribution of water so that residents of fourth floor also get equal quantity of water ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No ranking of overhead water tanks has been observed.

(c) and (d) The water supply in the area is expected to improve with the provision of an additional connection, for which sanction has been issued by the NDMC and the work for the same is likely to be completed by this month end. In addition to a few tubewells already being operated by the CPWD in the area to augment the supply from the NDMC, another tubewell is being drilled by the former in Alvert Square to increase the water supply to Sector C and D. To ensure supply of water to those living on top floors, water is being distributed through over head tanks.

**Unsafe balconies at Mandir Marg**

1135. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in D-8 Sector, Mandir Marg, balconies have become unsafe :

(b) whether it is also a fact that in D Sector despite lodging complaints these are not being attended to within the due time ;

(c) the number of civil complaints lodged at D' Sector enquiry for the last one month ; and

(d) the steps taken for their compliance ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Out of 633 complaints received during the last one month, 588 have been attended to and the remaining ones will be attended to during this month.

**Workers' agitation for minimum wages**

1136. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the agitation among the workers of Delhi Le Meridien Hotel Shahibabad and Ghaziabad Industrial workers demanding for Rs. 1050 as minimum wage, housing and other benefits ; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) According to information received from the Delhi Administration, the Hotel Le Meridien Employees Union had submitted a charter of demands which included fixation of minimum wages at Rs. 1200/- per month at Consumer Price Index of 800 (1960–100), house rent allowance and night allowance etc.. The Delhi Administration has referred the matter for adjudication on 10-5-1990.

According to information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, the Engineering Kamgar Union, Ghaziabad had submitted a charter of demands on 5-5-1990 regarding minimum wages for workers employed in Engineering establishments employing less than 50 persons should not be less than Rs. 1250/- at All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) of 800 points and in establishments employing more than 50 persons should not get less than Rs. 750/- at AICPI of 500 points.

Efforts are being made by the State Government to arrive at an agreement in a tripartite forum regarding increase in the wages of workers engaged in engineering establishments.

**Strike by employees of Le Meridien Hotel, Delhi**

1137. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the strike by the "Le Meridien Hotel" employees in New Delhi ;

(b) if so, the date since when the strike is going on ;

(c) what are the demands ; and

(d) what are the reasons that strike is continuing ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The strike commenced on 18-1-1990.

(c) and (d) The demands include reinstatement with full bark wages to all workmen and employees whose servires have been terminated, fixation of pay scales for different categories of workmen, payment of house rent and night allowances, bonus, leave travel concession, advance for marriage, festivals and purchase of household goods, welfare and service allowance, payment of overtime at double the normal rate, adoption of a scheme for reimbursement of the expenses incirred on education of children of the workman, formulation of a proper policy for filling up the vacancies and also to promote those alrredy employed according to their eligibility.

According to information furnished by the Drlhi Administration, in the case, having failed in efforts foi conciliation, the matter now stands referred for adjudication.

**Coconut plantation affected by Root Wilt Disease**

1138. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the root wilt disease affected coconut plantation in the Southern States particularly in Kerala, as on date ;

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to control this diseases; and

(c) if it is not possible to control this disease, what measures have been taken to prevent the spread of root wilt disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Root wilt disease has affected contiguous areas of 4·1 lakh ha. covering eight southern districts of Kerala as well as the adjoining districts of Kanyakumari and Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

(b) No effective remedial measures have been evolved so far to control the disease.

(c) The Coconut Development Board has undertaken several programmes to prevent the spread of disease which include removal of root wilt affected palms by giving financial assistance to coconut growers. So far about 3 lakh diseased palms in Kerala and 12,000 palms in Tamil Nadu have been removed. Integrated farming in coconut small holdings in Kerala for productivity improvement covering 10,000 ha. has also been taken up. Since the diseased palms respond well to better management practices like fertilizer application, irrigation, control of leaf-root etc., recommendations on these have been formulated and advocated for general adoption. Sanitation and quarantine measures have also been advocated to prevent the spread of the disease.

**Maintenance of parks in Hari Nagar, Delhi**

1139. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No. 2253 given in Rajya Sabha on 30th March, 1990 and:

(a) the number of parks, both big and small, including the green belt and the number of supervisors and malis posted to maintain these parks ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the tubewell meant for watering the parks is out of order for quite a long time and the underground pipe leading to 'CD' and 'BC' parks cannot be used as the water flows out on the roads ;

(c) if so, what action has been taken/is proposed to be taken to repair the tubewell and to replace the underground rotten pipes ; and

(d) by when the lighting, grills, swings etc. are likely to be rectified/replaced ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) DDA has furnished the following information :

Total number of parks, both big and small, including green belt is 23 ;

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Supervisors . . . | 1 |
| No. of Malis . . . | 9 ; |

(b) Yes, Sir. The tubewell is out of order and has been abandoned. No leakage on road ss reported.

(c) Action has been taken to replace the old tubewell by a new tubewell.